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1967/08/09

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Wednesday, August 9, 1967 -- 10:55 a.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith an able State Department analysis of Kissinger's report of conversations with the two Frenchmen who went to Hanoi, plus the report itself.

I conclude the conversations fit the pattern of recent months in which various North Vietnamese are talking with third parties:

- to suggest a marginal increase in flexibility;
- to smoke out U. S. positions and intentions.

If and when they are ready to settle, we will -- in my judgment -- hear much more directly and without all this ambiguity.

Nevertheless, a file worth reading.

W. W. Rostow

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By CB, NARA, Date 5-25-95

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